TL 6344-3

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PRESS RELATIONS WORKSHOP
(session with Mrs M. Bourgonje, Mr J. Medendorp, Ms J. Timms and Mr T. Samdup)

Delivered by Mr Zacarias da Costa East Timor

The Press Relations workshop recommends for future workshops and training courses:

1. role playing in TV- and radio-interviewing

2. longer time to practise these techniques (like a few weeks course)

3. more training and role playing in press conferences, as well as learning to write press releases

4. learning to speak in public situations,like at press conferences

5. learning to write ideas, facts and figures clearly (ways to improve writing skills, for example by writing letters to the editor, stories and (newspaper)columns)

6. workshops with groups from different delegations, because at this stage these will be better than a training group from one delegation

7. packaging information in press kits

8. learning how to work with a ghost writer.

January 21st, 1993

I would like to make a proposal and to make a request.

In November 91, two days before the Santa Cruz massacre, an assembly of 60 lawyers from 15 countries met in Lisbon and established a Platform (the International Platform of Jurists for East Timor) in order to improve the conditions that would allow the East Timorese to exercise their right to self-determination. Some examples of the work of the Platform: last month they organised a conference in London, which I attended, on the legal aspects of the Indonesian occupation of East Timor; this year they will publish a book on International Law and East Timor (the first of its kind), with the participation of twenty writers of different countries; in order to promote the study of our case in the Law Schools around the world they established a yearly international prize for the best legal work on the subject.

My proposal, to all UNPO members, is the following: try to organise similar platforms of jurists as a weapon in your struggle for self-determination. I know there is also a committee of jurists for the Western Sahara. Our Sahrawi friend can tell you more about it. UNPO could fulfil an important role coordinating the work of such platforms.

My request, to all jurists present, is the following: join the International Platform of Jurists for East Timor. The example was already given by some of you. Among the founding members of the Platform is our own Secretary-General, Michael van Walt, Chandra Roy, Jacqueline Louwe and Gerry Simpson, our rapporteur. The Secretary of the Platform, Pedro Pinto Leite, who is here with us, will be glad to give you further information and accept your applications.